

FAO AND ECOLABELS

Workshop on the future
environmental labelling of seafood

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FAO VIEW OF EXISTING LABELS AND CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

- Existing labels and certification schemes should be compliant with the FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries

FAO VIEW OF EXISTING LABELS AND CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

- No formal review by FAO of existing labels or certification schemes
- Request by some FAO members for FAO to assess conformity of private ecolabelling with FAO Guidelines

FAO VIEW OF EXISTING LABELS AND CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

- Concern that FAO mandate may not permit assessment of private ecolabelling schemes.
- FAO will propose an assessment procedure for consideration by the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (April 2010)

UPCOMING FAO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ECOLABELS

- Work on Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fish Products from Inland Capture Fisheries
- Work on guidelines for the assessment of fisheries in data-poor situations
- Finalize Aquaculture certification guidelines

UPCOMING FAO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ECOLABELS

- Disseminate amendments of the FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries
- Minimum substantive requirements (unit of certification, management systems, stock under consideration and ecosystem considerations)

STANDARDIZATION OF MINIMUM CRITERIA

- Standardization of minimum criteria will result in clearer regime
- Para 2.9 of the Guidelines: “Ecolabelling schemes ... considered equivalent if consistent with these guidelines”.
- Schemes certify against different criteria: stock sustainability, management regime, social objectives

FUTURE TRENDS

- Internationally agreed sustainability standards or standards for fisheries management?
- Life cycle assessment
- Carbon footprint

FUTURE TRENDS

- Draft aquaculture certification guidelines include:
 - animal health and welfare;
 - food safety and quality;
 - environmental integrity;
 - social responsibility

FUTURE TRENDS

- Change in demandeurs for certification?
- governments;
- industry (retail, processing, harvesting);
- consumers
- civil society

FUTURE TRENDS

- Legal challenges?

Thank you